

“H.R. 3380 is a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines within the boundary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

My name is Matt Ballard and I’m here on behalf of Sevier County Utility District to speak in favor of the adoption of this bill. I’m currently on the Board of Directors for both the American Public Gas Association and Tennessee Gas Association. Besides being a board member, I also serve on the Operations Committee of the American Public Gas Association and the Education Steering Committee of the Tennessee Gas Association. I am also on the Board of Directors for the East Tennessee Small Customers Association.

I have prepared a two page document that is available to the members of the sub-committee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands, providing details of our position.

This bill came about due to the fact that the Great Smoky Mountains National Park does not have enabling legislation that would allow Park or Department of Interior officials to approve allowing natural gas pipelines within the boundary of the Park. It is my understanding in talking to Park officials that other parks in the National Park system have such enabling legislation, however, Great Smoky Mountains National Park does not.

Sevier County Utility District presently has a distribution line constructed within the right-of-way of the road known as the Gatlinburg Spur which is considered part of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This is the primary access into the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and is a narrow corridor on either side of this roadway. A new ten-phase development project is in the process of being completed just outside this corridor. This development would like to receive natural gas services from Sevier County Utility District. The Park personnel reviewed the request for providing service to this development. This involved an approximate 325-foot pipeline being installed across the right-of-way. Upon further review of the proposed project, however, it was determined that the Park did not have authorization. For this reason, this enabling legislation is being sought. In addition to this specific need, there are other Park facilities located within the Park proper which may have need of natural gas pipelines in the future.

The specific request in this project is for the installation of a natural gas pipeline only. This does not involve any hazardous substance, chemicals or other environmentally harmful materials being introduced onto National Park property. The 325-foot project would involve little, if any, disruption and would be either underground or under an existing bridge. The entire pipeline would be in the road right-of-way or under the pavement surface on the existing four-lane divided highway.

In addition to the approval of this project by National Park Service personnel, this project has been approved by the City of Gatlinburg administration, the ‘Gateway Community’ to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. No other permits or approvals are necessary from any other regulatory body other than the National Park Service.

I have attached a map and drawing of the proposed construction.”



## **Quadrangles Viewed on TerraServer**

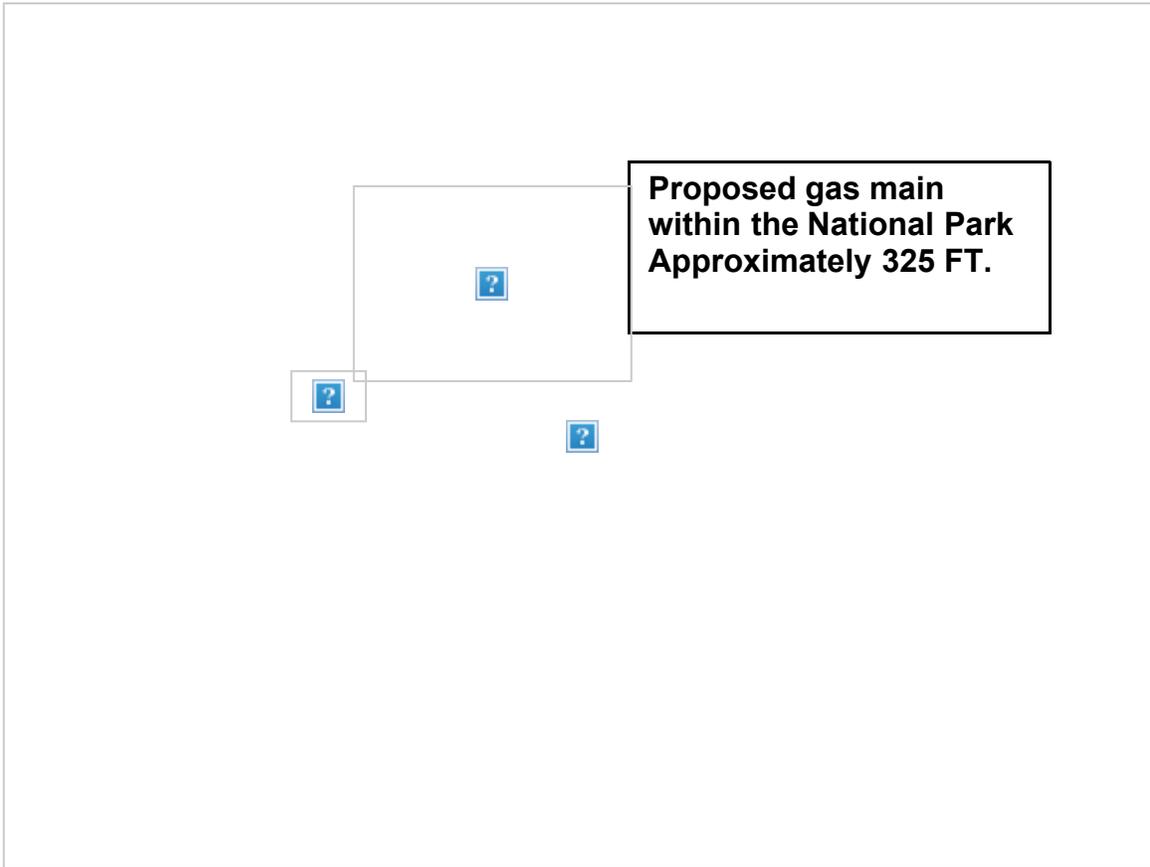


Image #	DRG Quadrangle Name	Publisher	Map Scale	Print Year
1	Mount Le Conte, TN US, NC US	TVA	1:24,000	1987
2	Gatlinburg, TN US	TVA	1:24,000	1983
3	Richardson Cove, TN US	TVA	1:24,000	1984
4	Pigeon Forge, TN US	TVA	1:24,000	1970

